



# SOCIAL STUDIES

# 6

## FOR FAMILIES

**Y**OU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers about learning in the classroom and how to support that learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

## SIXTH GRADE

### What to expect:

Students at this age are able to see the world from different perspectives and are interested in new tasks. In sixth-grade social studies, they will explore how spatial patterns (organization and placement of people and objects) form, change over time and relate to one another in the Western Hemisphere (North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean).

### By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Identify, locate and describe major landforms and bodies of water in the Western Hemisphere.
- Analyze the impact of natural disasters on human populations.
- Describe major political and economic systems of the Western Hemisphere.
- Identify countries, major urban centers and regions of the Western Hemisphere.
- Analyze reasons for conflict and cooperation among groups, societies, countries and regions of the Western Hemisphere.
- Describe the characteristics and relative location of major cultural regions of the Western Hemisphere.
- Explain patterns of global economic interdependence and world trade.
- Analyze the impact of geography on population location, growth and change.
- Describe common characteristics of developed and developing countries.
- Summarize the impact of the distribution of major renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- Evaluate the effects of human modification of and adaptation to the natural environment.

### What to do at home:

- Plan a trip using a paper map, not GPS.
- Go on virtual field trips to explore places in the Western Hemisphere.
- Discuss a family plan to recycle and conserve energy and water.
- Identify examples of cooperation in your community.
- Develop a family plan to follow in the event of a natural disaster.
- Learn where the goods in your house were made.
- Create a map of the Western Hemisphere.



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
— CHAMPION EXCELLENCE —



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## Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Provide opportunities for your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- Where would you like to travel? How would you get there?
- What makes a good leader?
- If you had a magic wand, what would you create that would make the biggest difference in the world?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

## Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What goals can you set to help you become a better person?
- What is your favorite part of the year and why?
- How can you make a positive difference for someone today?

## Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help sixth-graders understand what they are reading.

### BEFORE READING

- Are you keeping a list of books you have already read? Why would it be good to keep a list like that?
- How is this book like another book you have read or a movie you have seen?
- Why did you pick this book?

### DURING READING

- As you are reading, what questions do you have for the author?
- How does this book remind you of a book you have already read or something you already know?
- What resources can you use to understand words you aren't familiar with?

### AFTER READING

- How did the setting of the story affect the characters and plot?
- What was the theme of the book? Was lesson do you think the author wanted the reader to learn?
- How would you rewrite the ending to the story? Why would you change it?

Join the conversation!

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